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Letter dated 18 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council concerning Zimbabwe, issued on 16 March 2002 (see annex). The Council met in Barcelona on 15 and 16 March 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council, Barcelona, 15 and 16 March 2002

Zimbabwe

The European Union, noting that the Government of Zimbabwe prevented European Union observers from monitoring the election, and noting the damning conclusions of the reports of the Commonwealth observers team and of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, believes that these elections cannot be judged as either free or fair. The European Union condemns the manner in which the elections were organized by the Government of Zimbabwe.

The European Union congratulates the people of Zimbabwe on the civil and democratic will shown during the voting in the presidential election.

The European Union expresses its concern about ongoing threats to the civil and political rights of senior members of the opposition party in Zimbabwe, and resolves to monitor developments closely. The European Union will maintain its humanitarian assistance to the people of Zimbabwe and will consider possible additional targeted measures against its Government.

The European Council has decided to dispatch a high-level troika in the near future to confer with countries of the SADC region about the European Union concerns regarding Zimbabwe on the basis of their common commitment to the rule of law and democracy.